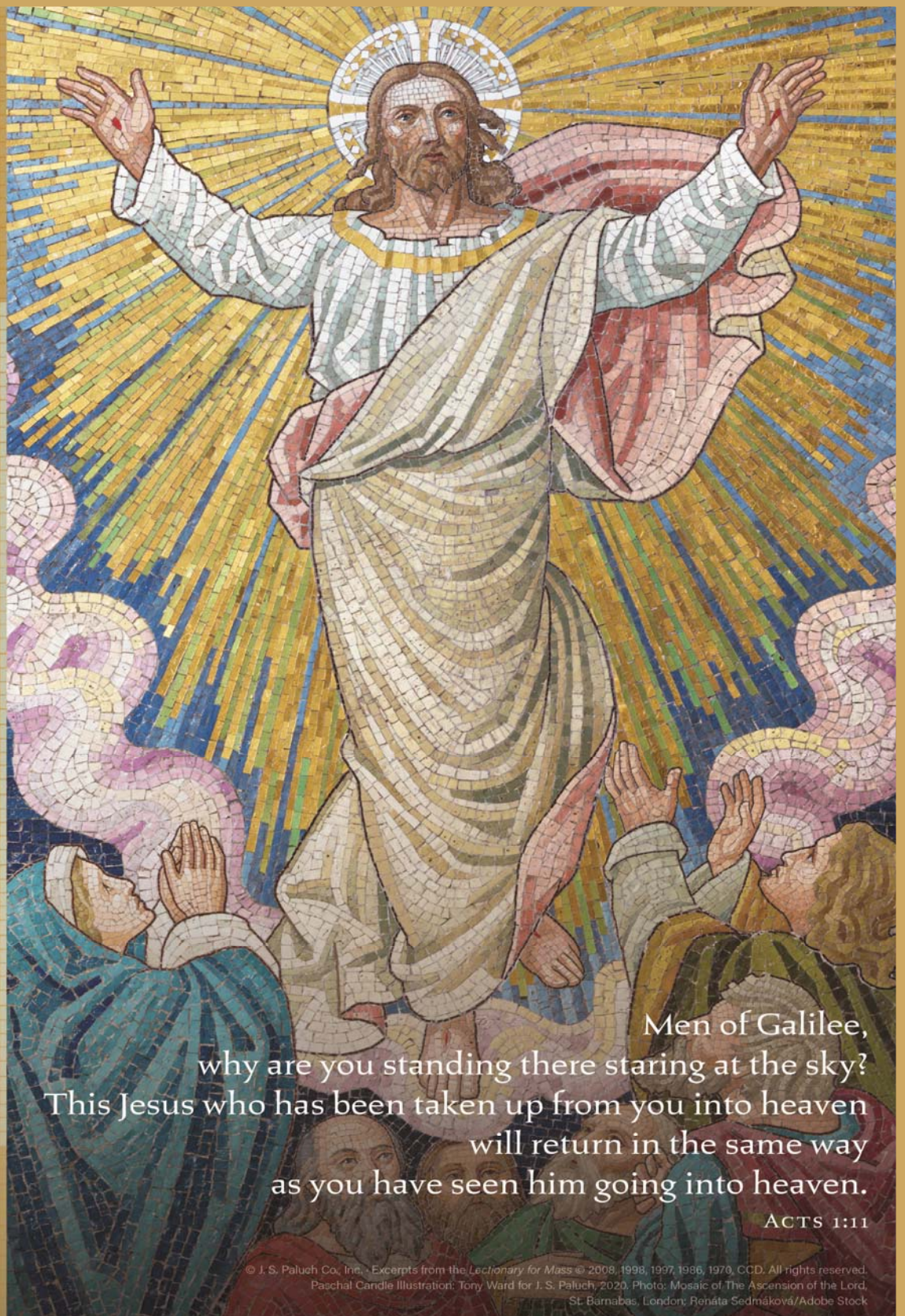


MAY
24
2020



Ascension
OF THE
LORD



Men of Galilee,
why are you standing there staring at the sky?
This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven
will return in the same way
as you have seen him going into heaven.

ACTS 1:11

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Paschal Candle Illustration: Tony Ward for J. S. Paluch, 2020. Photo: Mosaic of The Ascension of the Lord,
St. Barnabas, London; Renáta Sedmáková/Adobe Stock

SAINT SYMPHOROSA PARISH

A Family Celebrating Faith
6135 S Austin Ave Chicago, IL 60638
773.767.1523 (Phone) 773.767.6135 (Fax)
www.stsymphorosa.org



St. Symphorosa Parish

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St. Symphorosa Parish... Update & Thank You!

"Unprecedented"... "Unreal"... "Never before"... "Who would have ever thought"... Regardless of the phrase used to describe our current situation, no one could have anticipated the scope of what we are living through! Every single aspect of our "normal" daily life has become challenging. Yet, there are positives if we look for them AND there are plans for a gradual and systematic reopening of our St. Symphorosa Church!

Here is a quick update on Parish activities and finances...

Operations

While the Parish Office building and School buildings have been officially closed, there are significant ongoing functions being maintained.

School

The St. Symphorosa School family has remained hard at work during the COVID shutdown. Efforts began quickly in mid-March, to ensure that the academic instruction and learning continued for our students.

- Teachers and parents have been learning new tools and strategies to work with the students via E-Learning
- The school initiated a free breakfast/lunch program on Mondays and Wednesday for area families...not only school families
- Additional School Grant applications continue to be submitted to enhance our offerings in the new STEM lab, scheduled to open in Fall 2020

As the school/parish proudly celebrates the 22 students who are graduating, the focus anxiously looks to the future with 194 students already enrolled for the upcoming school year!

Parish Office

The office currently remains closed. However, employees are working from home. Maintenance remains on site daily, to ensure that the campus remains in operational condition. As a side note, please feel free to contact the Parish Office, as needed. The phones have been forwarded accordingly!

Collections:

The Parish is extremely grateful for the continuing dedication of parishioners who are making weekly Offertory donations via US Mail, Parish Office drop off (mail slot), E-Giving and Universal AOC E-Giving. Although the COVID donation process started very slowly in mid-March with \$1,000 - \$2,000 per week...the volume has significantly increased throughout April and May which are now regularly exceeding 50% - 60% of previously "normal" weekly collections. Likewise the total Easter Collection exceeds \$14,000+ (donations are still coming in) vs. a budget amount for Easter of \$21,000....considering the situation, this is amazing!!

Expenses:

- With AOC guidance, the parish has continued payment of our employees salaries
- Parish utility costs, while still ongoing, were immediately reduced upon the shutdown of the parish buildings... however, the monthly bills continue to require payment
- All parish projects were immediately put on hold with maintenance related expenses generally limited to breakage and safety/health related issues

Fundraisers

As previously announced, the 2020 Family Fest has been officially cancelled. This creates an immediate \$90,000 hole in the budget (we conservatively plan for \$90,000 ... although the recent Fest profits exceed \$100,000! There will be much post-COVID-19 emphasis in this area, as we work aggressively to recover some of this shortfall.

Financial Assistance

Shortly after the shutdown began, St. Symphorosa filed for the PPP (Payroll Protection Plan) SBA Loan. After significant banking interaction and submissions of data...St. Symphorosa was **approved** for a loan at the end of April. This was a huge accomplishment, as this loan may eventually be forgiven, based on an extensive set of compliance regulations. The face value of the loan is \$283,450. This will cover payroll expenses for an 8 week period plus the lesser opportunity to include specific utility costs. Please note, any unused funds during this period must be returned! These funds will greatly help to offset some of the offertory/donation shortfall exhibited to date!

Finally....and most importantly, the parish is now working toward the gradual reopening of the Church! Please be patient, as there will be numerous guidelines and modification to implement. The Parish will do everything possible, to ensure everyone's safety as we move forward. Likewise, we are currently assembling several teams of parish volunteers to assist in the preparation and management of the re-opening process. If you are interested in assisting and under 65 years of age, please contact the parish office ASAP. We need numerous individuals to help manage through this very methodical re-opening process together with Fr. Idzi and Staff.

THANK YOU to all of our parishioners who have already assisted the parish in the past two months. Whether it was through your ongoing support, prayers, positive spirit (Red Ribbon Project – over 180 Red Ribbons distributed thus far) or financial sacrifice, your contribution was and remains critical!! Please be aware of further updates, as we continue to manage the challenges of this process.

Parish Staff

Rev. Idzi Stacherczak
Pastor

Rev. Ted Bojczuk
Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Norman Trela
Retired Priest

Ken Hilliard
Operations Director

Deacon Raul Duque
Music Director

Magdalan Barry
Parish Secretary

Nancy Markham
Office Coordinator

Judy Banasiak
Religious Education
Coordinator

Kathy Berry
Principal

Chris Garza
Assistant Principal

Parish Office Hours

Monday through Friday
9:00 am—7:00 pm

Saturday
9:00 am—12:00 pm

Schedule of Masses

Sunday
7:30, 9:30, 11:30 am

Saturday Evening Mass
5:00 pm

Weekdays: 8:00 am
Monday through Saturday

Holy Days:
7:30am, 9:30 am and
7:00 pm

Sacrament of Penance

Monday - Saturday
after the 8am Mass

Parish Office

6135 S. Austin Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60638
773-767-1523 (phone)
773-767-6135 (fax)

www.stsymphorosa.org
symphorosa@comcast.net

Parish School

6125 S. Austin Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60638
773-585-6888

Thank You

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to **Mr. & Mrs. Richard & Teresa Koziar and Maria Kowalska** for their generous donation of our new paschal candle during the Easter season. This candle was donated in memory of all the deceased loved ones within their families. Thank you so very much for your donation and support of St. Symphorosa Parish.

~Fr. Idzi



Due to the recent suspension of all public Masses stewardship and split the pot information will not be available.



We ask all parishioners, if they desire, to please mail in their weekly contribution, bring them by the office, or consider making a one time donation on our e-giving site.

We thank you all for your continued support and pray that we all stay healthy and strong during this time.



**E-Giving
(Electronic
Giving)**
One Stop.
One Source.
One Solution.

Did you know e-giving is compatible with any computer, smartphone or tablet? You can create an online account and give a single donation or even schedule a series of donations, based on your budget, directly from your checking account or by using your debit or credit card.

Our online E-Giving URL address is:

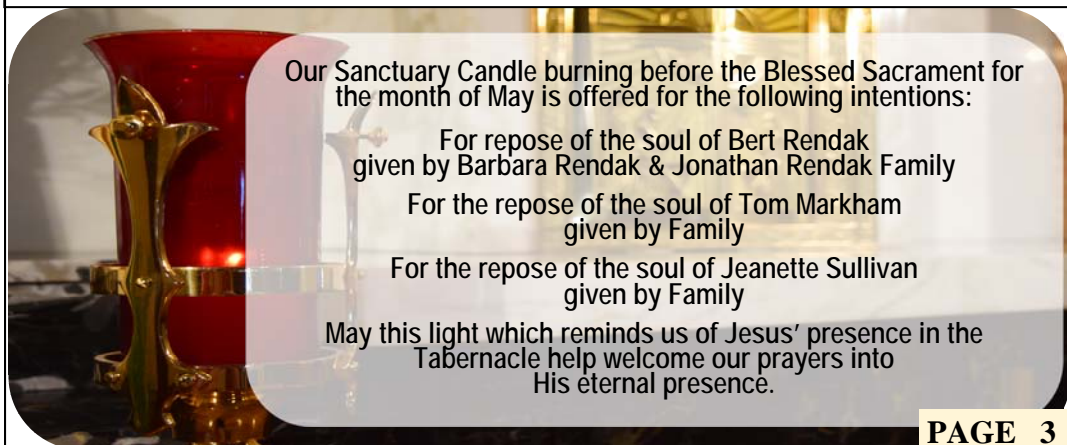
<https://giving.ncsservices.org/App/Giving/stsymphorosa>

Visit the above website or you can visit our Parish Website at "stsymphorosa.org" and click on the "Donate" tab. Please follow the directions online. It's simple! If you have any questions, please contact the parish office at **773.767.1523** and we will be glad assist you.



Every year as we near the celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday, St. Symphorosa Parish receives a generous donation of prepared Divine Mercy Chaplets with rosaries. I would like to thank **the DeVan Family** for their generosity each and every year in making this donation to our parish. Although we could not be together to share this with everyone this year, the donated rosaries and chaplets will be available for any interested party to pick up in the parish office and in the gathering space of our church once we are able to meet again.

~Fr. Idzi



Our Sanctuary Candle burning before the Blessed Sacrament for the month of May is offered for the following intentions:

For repose of the soul of Bert Rendak
given by Barbara Rendak & Jonathan Rendak Family

For the repose of the soul of Tom Markham
given by Family

For the repose of the soul of Jeanette Sullivan
given by Family

May this light which reminds us of Jesus' presence in the Tabernacle help welcome our prayers into His eternal presence.



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Reopening Plan for St. Symphorosa Parish Church amid COVID-19

Hello St. Symphorosa family,

I pray that you and your loved ones are healthy. As you may have seen, Cardinal Cupich recently shared our [multi-phased plan for reopening churches in the Archdiocese of Chicago](#). Specifically,

Phase I allows for parishes to reopen for Baptism, Reconciliation, Weddings and Funerals with a limit of 10 attendees.

Phase IA allows for parishes to reopen for private prayer and adoration with a limit of 10 attendees.

Phase II allows for reopening for weekday and weekend Masses for larger groups depending on the guidelines from the state and the capacity of the church building.

Our St. Symphorosa Reopening Plan

First and foremost, it is important for everyone to understand that our efforts will prioritize the safety and wellbeing of all while maintaining due respect and reverence for the sacraments and liturgical norms of our faith.

I will assemble a Parish Reopening Leadership Team with parishioner co-captains to lead our efforts. Together, we will attend required training from the Archdiocese to ensure that our parish reopening plan conforms to the guidelines developed by the Archdiocese in collaboration with civil and healthcare authorities. We will also receive a starter kit of protective and cleaning supplies, as well as guidance on purchasing/maintaining supplies ongoing.

Volunteers Needed

We will need volunteers to assist with various aspects of our parish reopening plan. Importantly, leadership team members and volunteers must not be part of a "vulnerable population" (that is, not over the age of 65; no underlying medical condition such as diabetes; lung disease; undergoing cancer treatment, etc.). I ask all of you who are younger than 65 and healthy with no underlying health conditions to consider assisting with one of three reopening teams:

Set-up team. Sample duties include ensuring that all supplies needed for each sacramental celebration/gathering are ready for use, entrances and exits are marked and propped physically open prior to attendees' arrival/departure, windows are opened, etc.

Greeting team. Sample duties include assisting in managing the flow of congregants as they enter the church, making sure attendees use hand sanitizer upon entering, are wearing a mask, and are reminded not to enter if ill; directing people to appropriate seating/waiting areas, etc.

Cleaning team. Sample duties include maintaining and cleaning essential and trafficked areas of the church before and after the church has been used. Masks and gloves will be provided, if you do not have your own, in addition to approved cleaning/disinfecting supplies.

The Reopening Leadership Team and I will make sure that all volunteers are properly trained. Please send us a message at symphorosa@comcast.net to indicate your willingness and ability to volunteer. From those that step forward, we will also request that some act as volunteer captains to help lead each of the three teams.

Timing for Our Reopening

As I mentioned, the Parish Reopening Leadership Team members and I will need to complete required training, which will take place the week of May 17. Once we complete the training, we will need to review and complete tasks assigned to all parishes as part of a reopening certification process to be approved by the Archdiocese. Therefore, the soonest that any parish in the Archdiocese will realistically open for sacramental celebrations, private prayer or Eucharistic Adoration is likely the weekend of May 23. However, our parish, like all others in the archdiocese, will move forward at a pace and timing appropriate for its own situation. **The current projected date for opening the St. Symphorosa church doors for sacraments is Saturday, June 6th. We hope to offer reconciliation to any interested persons on this date from 8:45am to 9:30am. Please call the parish office and check next weekend's bulletin for more information.**

Following our training and certification approval, at St. Symphorosa, we will only open our church once the Reopening Leadership Team and I feel confident that we have the right volunteers in place to make it possible to reopen. Again, the need for parishioner assistance cannot be overstated.

The guidelines and measures required to reopen are designed to protect our wellbeing and that of the of our broader community. As Cardinal Cupich has noted, from the first pages of Scripture we learn that we indeed are "our brother's keeper." Our Lord Jesus Christ prayed, "that they all may be one" (Jn 17:21) and commanded us "love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another" (Jn 13:34). Our collective patience, willingness to help and the care we take to reopen is a demonstration of our unity and love for one another.

May God grant you His peace during this difficult time and may He manifest His love and presence to you in abundant ways. If you have any questions, please contact the parish office at 773.767.1523

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Idzi Stacherczak

St. Symphorosa School
Graduate Spotlight

Leah M. Sautkus



Years at St. Syms: 11

Future Highschool:
Nazareth Academy



Favorite School Memory: Picnics at Minuteman Park

Clubs, Sports, and Activities: volleyball, cheerleading, basketball, altar server, Student Council, Spelling Bee, Geography Bee, All American Boy and Girl finalist

Final Words of Wisdom: "It goes by fast, soak it all in while you can!"

St. Symphorosa School
Graduate Spotlight

Daniel D'Andrea



Years at St. Syms: 10

Future High School:
Nazareth Academy



Favorite School Memory: Playing Football

Clubs, Sports, and Activities: Football, Basketball, Baseball, Bowling, Band, Student Council, Altar Server, Patrol, A Honors, CSJ scholarship for Nazareth Academy, Third place winner in Congressman Lipinski's All American Boy and Girl competition

Final Words of Wisdom: "Do Your Work!"

St. Symphorosa School
Graduate Spotlight

Dominic Pettenon



Years at St. Syms: 9

Future High School:
Brother Rice



Favorite School Memory: Seventh grade trip to Milwaukee with my class and the 8th graders at the time.

Clubs, Sports, and Activities: President of Student Council, Altar server for 5 years, pre-k helper, plays guitar and loves music and science. Has played football, baseball/softball and basketball

Final Words of Wisdom: "It's not about how hard you hit, it's about how hard you can get hit and keep moving forward!"

St. Symphorosa School
Graduate Spotlight

Anali Carmona



Years at St. Syms: 10

Future High School:
Marist High School



Favorite School Memory: Pep Rallies, Homecoming dance, St Syms Haunted house, Volleyball tournaments, Milwaukee Field Trip

Clubs, Sports, and Activities: Morning announcements, Safety patrol, Pre-k helper, Cheerleader, Basketball, Volleyball, Bowling, ClearRidge Softball

Final Words of Wisdom: "Thank you to all my teachers and friends. I will miss you all."

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, May 23, 2020

5:00pm †Greg Golab (*Mom & Dad*)
 †Carmen Ramirez (*Nancy Markham*)
 †Janet & Steve Molnar (*Hohm Family*)
 †Pedro H. Alvarez (*Family*)

Sunday, May 24, 2020

The Ascension of the Lord

7:30am †Janet & Steve Molnar (*Hohm Family*)
 †Beatrice Lucio (*Friend Ray*)
 9:30am †Bert Rendak (*Barbara Rendak*)
 †James Sullivan & Maria Alvarez
 (*Sullivan & Alvarez Family*)
 11:30am For all Parishioners, Living and Deceased (31)

Monday, May 25, 2020

Saint Bede the Venerable, Priest
Saint Gregory VII, Pope
Saint Mary Magdalene de'Pazzi

8:00am †Jan Sochacki (*Walter Sochacki*)

Tuesday, May 26, 2020

Saint Philip Neri, Priest

8:00am Health & all the Lord's blessing for Helena Turek (*Janina*)

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Saint Augustine of Canterbury, Priest

8:00am †Thomas Calcagno (*Kathy Calcagno*)
 †Theresa Genovese (*Barbara Rendak*)

Thursday, May 28, 2020

8:00am †Marilyn Polit (*Karen Crosser*)

Friday, May 29, 2020

8:00am †Roberto Rodriguez (*Ines Rodriguez*)

Saturday, May 30, 2020

8:00am For all Parishioners, Living and Deceased (32)
 5:00pm †Mary Hecke (*Mary Trendle*)
 †Janet & Steve Molnar (*Hohm Family*)

Sunday, May 31, 2020

Pentecost Sunday

7:30am †Janet & Steve Molnar (*Hohm Family*)
 9:30am Health & all the Lord's blessings for the DeVan Family
 (*Fr. Idzi*)
 11:30am For all Parishioners, Living and Deceased (33)



The faithful all around the world are invited to join with Pope Francis for his special intention. Won't you join in? The intention for the month of May is for Deacons.

We pray that deacons, faithful to their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.



There are in the end three things that last: Faith, Hope, and Love, and the greatest of these is LOVE.

Kim Argires
 Ignatius Battiato
 Mary Bieser
 Fr. Ted Bojczuk
 Lydia Brown
 Pat Carmody
 Michael Clifford
 Norma De Stefano
 Chris Doherty
 Juan Figueroa
 Carol Gress
 Suzann Gunter
 Kathy Haars
 Catherine Hier
 Megan High
 Heather Hradek
 Denise M. Jandura
 Rich S. Jandura
 Joan Juris
 Pete Kats
 Lee Karpinski
 Dennis Kline
 Walter Kokoszka, Sr.
 Claudia Kwilosz
 Norman Kwilosz
 James Lapsansky
 Maryann Larson

Donna Lauritzen
 Domenico Lepore
 Debbie Lipien
 Maria & Martinez Family
 John Martini
 Thomas Minnich
 Christine Mosqueda
 Genevieve Nagle
 Florence Panzarella
 Baby Alexander J Pentz
 Gi Gi Picciolini
 Marilyn Polit
 Marie Pratt
 Ann Robertson
 Edward Robertson
 Fr. John Rudnik
 Joseph Rudnik
 Collyn Schmidt
 Kristyn Schmidt
 Elliana Sterk
 Brian Styka
 Terry Styka
 Mary Thorpe
 George Trendle
 Judith Webber
 Barb Ziegler
 Michelle

Due to privacy laws, names may only be added to our prayer list by immediate family.
 Please let us know when to remove a name.

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

Sgt. Jaime A. Acosta, USMC
 Sgt. Ted Bartelmey
 CS-1 Joel Battung
 1st Sgt. Chas. Berglund, USMC
 Sgt. Naveen Bobba, USMC
 Sgt. Arthur A. Boruch, National Guard
 Hospitalman Blythe A. Cisneros, USN
 Airman Carlos Cisneros, USAF
 Sgt. Frank Cisneros, USMC
 Corpsman Nicholas J. Cundari-USN
 Captain Kevin Dobbyn, US Army
 Sgt. John Flores, IL National Guard
 Staff Sgt. Andrew Gaca, USAF

Sgt. Michael Hough, US Army
 Anthony Johaniewicz, US Navy
 Corporal Noah M. Konie, USMC
 Lance Corp. Tim Lisenko, USMC
 Trevor Lutz, US Army
 Corporal Zachary Maderak, USMC
 Private Joseph M. Mikutis, USMC
 Pvt 1st Class Daniel Morales, US Army
 SPC Alex Ramos
 Staff Sgt. Abel Sandoval, USMC
 WO-1 Richard Sabeske, US Army
 Sgt. 1st Class Kristina Stuhlmacher
 1LT Zachary White, IL Army NG



Today as we celebrate the feast of the Ascension we are reminded that Christ's saving work on earth continues through his disciples...and now through us.

Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can bring peace to those who are hungry.

St. Vincent de Paul phone number: (773) 682-3342



Lord Jesus, you healed those who were sick and cared for any who were suffering. Be with us now as we pray for all those who may be affected by the Coronavirus.